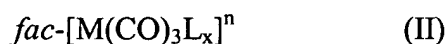


AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS

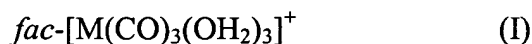
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled):
2. (Canceled):
3. (Canceled):
4. (Canceled):
5. (Canceled):
6. (Three Times Amended): A method of preparing a compound of formula:



comprising reacting a ligand L_x with a compound of formula (I)



wherein:

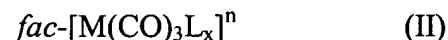
M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc , ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re ;

L_x is a non-aromatic aminopolycarboxylate multidentate selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), ~~iminodiacetic acid (IDA)~~, nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and triazacyclononanetriacetate, said multidentate containing at least three carboxylate groups.

and

n is a charge of the ligand L_x increased with one + charge.

7. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the reaction with ligand L_x takes place in the presence of a halide.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said method is performed between about 20°C and 100°C.
11. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said method is performed at about 75°C.
12. (Canceled)
13. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said ligand is not bidentate
14. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said ligand is tridentate.
15. (Three Times Amended): A compound of formula:



wherein:

M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc , ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re ;

L_x is a non-aromatic multidentate aminopolycarboxylate ligand containing at least three carboxylate groups selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), iminodiacetic acid (IDA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and triazacyclononanetriacetate, said multidentate containing at least three carboxylate groups; and

n is the sum of the charge of the ligands L_x .

16. (original): The compound of claim 15, wherein L_x is not a bidentate ligand.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled):
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled):
23. (original): A kit for carrying out the method of claim 6, comprising a lyophilized formulation including a basic borate buffer, a reducing agent soluble in water but not substantially decomposed by water and a metal M which is Mn, ^{99m}Tc , ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re .
24. (original): The kit of claim 23 wherein said reducing agent is KBH_4 .
25. (original): The kit of claim 23 wherein said formulation further includes lactose.
26. (original): The kit of claim 23 wherein said formulation further includes L-tartaric acid.
27. (Canceled)
28. (previously presented): The kit of claim 23 wherein L_x is not a bidentate ligand.
29. (Canceled)